

GOVERNOR'S

WORKFORCE

SUMMIT 2022

The Governor's 2022 Workforce Development Summit

St. Thomas – Thursday, September 29, 2022

*"Creativity and Innovation in the US Virgin Islands Workforce –
Looking Ahead"*

Agenda	
8:00 AM – 8:45 AM	Registration
8:45 AM – 9:00 AM	Emcees: <i>Asiah Clendinen Gumbs & Mike Fazio</i> Welcome: Michael Carty, Chairman, VI Workforce Development Board Greetings: Honorable Gary A. Molloy, Commissioner, VI Department of Labor
9:00 AM – 9:30 AM	Remarks: Honorable Albert Bryan, Jr., Governor, United States Virgin Islands
9:30 AM – 9:45 AM	BREAK
GOVERNOR'S SESSION – 9:45 AM – 10:45 AM	

Grow Your People...Grow Your Business:

How can small businessowners improve their business productivity and profit margin, develop employee engagement, grow, and improve their services, reduce staff turnover, and enhance business performance.

Moderator: Honorable Albert Bryan, Jr., Governor

Panelists: **Geraldine Pitt**, CEO, VIYA, **Brandi Charles**, Director of Human Resources Operations, The Ritz-Carlton, **Thomas B. Brunt IV**, Vice President, MSI Building Supplies

10:45 AM – 11:00 AM

BREAK

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Building a Creative and Innovative Attitude

Panelists will discuss the importance of having a creative and innovative attitude to help you improve your skills and become more job ready, how to embrace challenges and change to transform yourself and boost your self-confidence, the characteristics you need to help you advance in life.

Moderator: **Walter Simmons**, Founding President and CEO of Employ Prince George's, Inc.

Panelists: **Katherine Pugliese**, Business Owner and Co-Founder of Taste of St. Croix and St. Croix Food and Wine Experience, **Dr. Kendra Roach**, Chief Association Executive, The Leader's Branch, Inc., **Oriel Blake**, Executive Director, VI Professional Charter Association, Inc., **Samuel Rey**, President, Host-U Services

Building your Workforce...Overcoming the Barriers:

Understanding the Labor Shortage and Needs of Virgin Islands' Workforce

Panelists will discuss key industries affected by the labor shortage and offer ways to navigate through the workforce systems, skills currently needed to meet the needs of the Virgin Islands recovery projects, training programs that offer certifications, identify resources to help the untapped talent within the community – individuals with disabilities, reentry, recovery, and veterans become gainfully employed.

Moderator: Amanda Wagner, Chief Operating Officer, Employ Prince George's, Inc.

Panelists: Ed Trumbull, Vice President, ICF, **Adryann Glenn**, CEO/Executive Director, Align Community VI, **Marcy Heistand**, Project Director, Equus Workforce Solutions

Economic and Education Actions to Transform the Workforce

Panelists will discuss the role education plays in economic and workforce development and how education affects the labor force.

Moderator: Sana Joseph-Smith, Policy Advisor, Office of the Governor

Panelists: Victor Somme, III, Assistant Commissioner, VI Dept. Of Education, **Wayne L. Biggs, Jr.**, Chief Executive Officer, VI Economic Development Authority,

Lunch

12:00 PM – 12:45 PM

VIDOL/Equus/Core Partners Presentation (Streamed to All)

12:45 PM – 1:15 PM

Keynote Panel Discussion: Thriving Workforces in the New Norm

Moderator: Gary Molloy, Commissioner, VI Department of Labor

Panelists: Jason Charles, Senior Executive of Public Policy Advisor, Southland Gaming Virgin Islands, **Scott Bradley**, Founder and Program Director, My Brother's Workshop, **Michael Carty**, Chairman, VI Workforce Development Board

1:15 PM – 1:30 PM

Break

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

Applying Creativity and Innovation to Attract and Retain Employees in the New World of Work:

What role does creativity and creative problem-solving play in the workplace. What are the best strategies employers can use to recruit and retain good talent? How can job seekers effectively keep up with new recruitment methods that have emerged after COVID-19 pandemic and become successfully employed.

Moderator: **Camille A. McKayle**, PhD, Provost, University of the Virgin Islands

Panelists: **Leslyn Tonge**, PhD, Assistant Director, Creative Leadership for Innovative and Change, University of the Virgin Islands, **Richard J. Doumeng**, Managing Director, Bolongo Bay Beach Resort, Harborside Corporation (invited), **Deborah Finley Jackson**, Ph.D., University of the Virgin Islands, **Mike Fazio**, President, Workforce 180

**Seizing Workforce Opportunities in Emerging Sectors:
Building a Future-Ready Workforce**

What does it mean to be workforce ready? How to recognize the difference between skills and capabilities, the importance of reskilling to keep up with job requirements, and how job seekers can adapt to the new job market and become more resilient and self-confident.

Moderator: **Amanda Wagner**, Chief Operating Officer, Employ Prince George's, Inc.

Panelists: **Dr. David Hall**, President, UVI, **Cindy Richardson**, Director, Division of Personnel, **Khalarni Rivers**, President, Governor's Millennial Council, **Ralph Simpson**, President, Islands SeasFire, LLC

Debunking Myths of Tech and Business

Learn why it is important to keep up to speed with new technology in today's business world to grow and sustain your business. Panelists will discuss challenges and offer solutions on how to create effective training to help your business thrive and succeed.

Moderator: **Michael Carty**, President, Smartnet/Chairman, VI Workforce Development Board

Panelists: **Ian Tomlinson**, President, Omni Systems, **Stephan Adams**, President and CEO of the V.I. Next Generation Network (viNGN), **Rupert Ross**, Director, Bureau of Information Technology, **Herman Hart**, Vice President of VI Region Administration, Banco Popular, **Josina Baly-Pole**, MIS Manager, Department of Human Services,

Training and Upskilling Virgin Islanders Now and Into the Future

The importance of upskilling and reskilling and how it can be used to enhance your performance and productivity, and the steps you can take to upskill your way to a successful career.

Moderator: **Cira Burke**, Director, TANF/JOBS, VI Department of Human Services

Panelists: **Rudy Racine**, Vice President, Equus Workforce Solutions, **Dr. Suzanne Magras**, UVI CELL, **Nesha R. Christian-Hendrickson**, Asst. Commissioner/Legal Counsel, VI Department of Labor, **Mario Francis**, Principal, Raphael O. Wheatley Skills Center

Small Business and Entrepreneurship

Find out what resources and training opportunities that are available to small businessowners and those who are considering starting a business.

Panelists will discuss new approaches to help you run your business efficiently and effectively, the vital building blocks of every successful small business, how to build a thriving business, meet your customer needs, make your business agile enough to be stable, and flexible to meet your employees needs and satisfy your customers

Moderator: Janette Millin Young, President, Millin Young Consulting

Panelists: **Ted Gutierrez**, State Director, SBDC, **Cusa Holloway**, Incubator Program Manager, VI Economic Development Authority, **Winston Herbert**, Owner, Lifestyle Barbershop, **Richard Evangelista**, Esq., Commissioner, VI Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs

2:30 PM

Closing Remarks